



THE RUDDER

Sailings of the Medical Service Corps



From the MSC Director



Greetings Medical Service Corps Officers! This is always a great time of year as we have the opportunity to celebrate so many promotions, especially given 67% of them occur in September. It is a wonderful part of our heritage to participate in and witness our fellow MSC officers putting on the next rank. I continue to encourage each of you to take time and celebrate these significant career milestones.

As all of us move up our respective career ladder, we will be fronted with many challenges that will require us to *Lead with Integrity*. As one of my tenets and one of the CNO's four guiding principles, Integrity is paramount in each of our leadership journeys. Our behaviors must align with the Navy core values of honor, courage and commitment and we all shall actively strengthen each other's integrity as individuals, as teams and as a force. Our conduct as Naval officers must always be upright and honorable both in public, and just as important, when no one is looking. We must never allow ourselves to get complacent or think the rules don't apply to us based on our position or authority. Leading with Integrity is the essence of servant leadership where we must always hold ourselves to the highest standards. This is evident in the SG's guiding principles of honoring the uniform we wear and honoring the privilege of leadership. Leading is a privilege and it requires integrity.

Integrity

We will always lead with integrity and represent the Corps with strong moral principles and uprightness.

Our Corps has so many officers doing phenomenal work for our great Navy. I am so proud of the team we have and how each of you consistently take on new challenges with energy and vigor to make Navy Medicine better each day. As you sail on your leadership journey, be steadfast and represent our Corps with moral principles that make our Navy and nation great. As always, thank you for what you do every day.

RDML Anne Swap

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From the Corps Chief's Office



RADM Michael H. Mittelman was the 15th Director of the Medical Service Corps.

Today, Dr. Mittelman serves as the sixth president of Salus University (established by the Pennsylvania College of Optometry). Salus University is a small health science professions university with 4 colleges: The Pennsylvania College of Optometry, Osborne College of Audiology, College of Health Sciences (where they train PA's and have an on-line MPH program) and College of Education and Rehabilitation (where they train Occupational Therapists, Speech and Language Pathologists and Blind and Low Vision specialists). Dr. Mittelman enjoys running, biking, and swimming and even competes in local races. The father of three daughters, he and his wife now reside in Pennsylvania.

Words of wisdom for MSC leaders:

I've always been very honored and humbled to have been chosen to have the opportunity to lead people who have been focused on their patients and the mission of Navy Medicine. My best advice to leaders is to ensure we continue to mentor and nurture those whom we serve as leaders. Take care of your people, always be their advocate and when necessary, I tell folks to "proceed until apprehended" if you need to get things done, especially when it comes to providing high quality, cost effective care. If we keep our mission to serve those who go into harm's way and the patient's best interest in the middle of the bullseye, we'll always get it right.



Recent Messages of Interest

[218/16 NAVY RATING MODERNIZATION](#)

[217/16 ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE BLENDED RETIREMENT SYSTEM FOR THE UNIFORMED SERVICES](#)

[212/16 SELECTIVE REENLISTMENT BONUS UPDATE](#)

[211/16 EXECUTIVE MASTER OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION DISTANCE LEARNING DEGREE PROGRAM FOR MARCH 2017](#)

[209/16 ENHANCEMENTS TO CAREER INTERMISSION PROGRAM](#)

[208/16 SUICIDE PREVENTION AND RESPONSE/SAILOR ASSISTANCE AND INTERCEPT FOR LIFE](#)

[204/16 2016 GENERAL ELECTION AND VOTING SEASON](#)

[2013/16 GUIDANCE FOR TRANSGENDER MILITARY SERVICE, MESSAGE 1](#)

[FY-17 ENLISTED TO MEDICAL DEGREE PREPARATORY PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENT](#)

Medical Service Corps Closed Facebook Group

If you would like to join, please go to <https://www.facebook.com/groups/usnavymsc>

Newsletter Submissions

Pictures, stories, and any other input can be submitted by forwarding to: usn.ncr.bumedfchva.lis@navy.mil

For pictures, please include location, rank, first and last name, subspecialty, and a short caption.

When making submissions, please ensure photos have been approved by your local Public Affairs Officer prior to submission.

Newsletter Editor

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Reserve Update

Congratulations to the following Reserve Component Lieutenants who were selected for promotion to Lieutenant Commander:

Adams Maya Nicol	Alvarez Andrew Madison
Anglero Antonio Jr	Bradley Ronnie Joe II
Catania Charity Renee	Coates Kelly Thomas
Coetzer Chris Thomas	Crum Kevin Ray
Frisch Daniel Michael	Gibbons Alyssa Lynn
Grove Allen Byington	Ho Tiensi
Hulsebos Elise Marie	Lavinghousez William E
Mackie Sean Patrick	Ogden Calvin Craig
Peck Steven Charles	Pena Anna Marisa
Roberts Lauchland Alex	Simmons Juliana Marie
Smith Zachary Mclean	Stewart Robert David
Tranyu Diana	



Jacksonville, FL - Navy Reserve Medical Directors for Administration convene at Naval Hospital Jacksonville for an inaugural DFA Training Symposium. Pictured (L-R): CDR Milan Moncilovich, Pharmacist and DFA at OHSU Portsmouth; CDR Efstratios Lagoutaris, Podiatrist and DFA at NR NMETC; CAPT(s) Eric Lubeck, POMI at EMF Bethesda; CAPT Christopher Pearce, Optometrist and DFA at OHSU Camp Lejeune; CAPT Katherine Ormsbee, POMI and DFA at OHSU Bremerton; CAPT John Hoelscher, Optometrist and MSC Reserve Affairs Officer; RDML(s) Mark Bipes; CAPT Luis Nunez, Medical Technologist and DFA at OHSU San Diego; RADM Thomas Beeman, Assistant Deputy Surgeon General for Reserve Affairs; CAPT Kenneth Wagner, Physician Assistant and DFA at OHSU Pensacola; RDML(s) Mary Riggs, Nurse Corps; CAPT Laura Mussulman, Healthcare Administrator and DFA at EMF Great Lakes; CAPT Scott Olivolo, Healthcare Administrator and DFA at NR NAVCENT; CAPT Marie Gannon, Optometrist and Symposium Lead; CAPT Patricia McCafferty, Dietitian and DFA at EMF Bethesda; LT Bryce Mendez, Healthcare Administrator at EMF Bethesda.

Reserve Update



Okinawa, Japan - Rear Adm. Victor W. Hall (Left), deputy commander for Navy Medicine West and deputy corps chief for the Medical Service Corps, listens to Capt. Timothy Weber (Right), CO U.S. Naval Hospital Okinawa, as they tour the Public Health and Behavioral Health Building of United States Naval Hospital Okinawa, Japan. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communications Specialist 3rd Class Kelly Agee/Released)



Zabul Province, Qalat AFG - Jenifer VandeHartert (left), Physician Assistant, provides care to an Afghan policeman at FOB Lagman who had been injured by an IED sustaining a hand injury.



USS Mount Whitney (LCC-20) - CDR Brian Foor, Physician Assistant, participates in an overboard training/exercise while providing medical support to SIXTH Fleet, Naples Italy.



Azusa, CA - LT Greg Petty, Physician Assistant, provides Level 1 medical support to the Fleet Combat Camera Pacific (FCCP) 2016 Summer Quick Shot Field Training Exercise during his Annual Training.



Mayfield, KY - Pictured (L—R) : CDR Fred Kelley, Optometrist; LT Chris Luft, Optometrist; CDR Sharlene Gee, Optometrist; and, CDR Brian Foor, Physician Assistant, participate in the Bluegrass Medical IRT that provided care to 2,744 patients with cost avoidance to local area of \$1,531,256.00.



Chinhae, South Korea - LCDR Darren Kasai, POMI, poses for a photo while supporting CNFK's 24-hour watch operations. Reserve MSCs staffed various medical billets during August's Ulchi Freedom Guardian.



Chinhae, South Korea - AC and RC MSCs serve as LNOs to the Theater Lead Agent for Medical Materials (TLAMM) at this year's Ulchi Freedom Guardian in South Korea. Pictured (L-R): LCDR Olusegun Olabode, POMI/ Med Log - 3d MLG; CPT Kenneth Chesney, Army Med Log - SOCKOR; Spc. Gardner - USAMMC-K; LT Bryce Mendez, POMI - CNFK; MSgt Letosha Sheperd - TLAMM-P; and HMC Jaybee Borja - 3d MLG.

Reserve Update

NR NAVCENT MEDICAL



The mission of Navy Reserve Naval Forces Central Command (NR NAVCENT) is to provide fully trained, operationally competent medical personnel in support of the full range of U.S. Naval Forces Central Command (NAVCENT) operational requirements. NAVCENT is headquartered at Naval Support Activity Bahrain and in-

cludes U.S. Naval Forces Central Command as well as the 5th Fleet Combined Maritime Forces. In the words of our Commanding Officer, Captain Todd Morris, "CENTCOM is, by far, the most active Combatant Command, which means NR NAVCENT Medical has the opportunity to be a part of activities shaping the world." NAVCENT Medical headquarters is located at the Navy Operational Support Center, Chicago.

Specifically, for the 31 officers and 47 enlisted staff assigned to NR NAVCENT, mostly cross-assigned, the mission includes temporary relief at deployed medical units, augmenting the Bahrain Naval Medical Clinic, and participating in regional exercises or administrative support within the Force Surgeon's office. This list is not exhaustive and continues to expand as the Unit grows, adding several more billets for physicians, dentists, nurses, and MSC planners in future Fiscal Years.

During the past Fiscal Year, NR NAVCENT provided 1,216 days of contributory support throughout the NAVCENT area of responsibility. From a productivity perspective, Unit members contributed over \$326,000 of direct medical, dental, allied health, nursing, corpsmen, and training and administrative support to NAVCENT. This productivity is in addition to the \$88,000 of contributory assistance in medical/dental care to 26 supported Navy Operational Support Centers (NOSCs) from across the country from New York, across to Chicago, to San Francisco.

NR NAVCENT Medical has 9 MSC officers in its ranks to include 6 healthcare administrators (POMI and General HCA), 1 Entomologist/HCA, 1 Clinical Psychologist, and 1 Clinical Pharmacist. During the past year, our MSC's have made a significant positive impact at NAVCENT and 5th Fleet. Just a few examples are mentioned herein.

LT Brandon Palmer, a POMI/HCA, completed a 29-day Additional Duty for Training (ADT) in April in Bahrain to support the International Mine Countermeasures Exercise

(IMCMEX) 2016. IMCMEX is a serial-driven exercise consisting of multiple events, to include maritime security operations, conducted in the Arabian Gulf, Sea of Oman, Gulf of Aden and the Red Sea. LT Palmer served as the Fleet Training Exercise (FTX) Battle Watch Officer, and was critical in monitoring and tracking four Combined Task Forces (CTFs) comprised of 32 ships, two helicopter detachments and numerous dive teams with participation from 34 countries.

CDR David Fabrizio, also a POMI/HCA, completed a 90-day ADT at the NAVCENT Force Surgeon's Office in Bahrain, which ended in July 2016. CDR Fabrizio made a significant positive impact on streamlining processes for NR NAVCENT Medical personnel serving throughout NAVCENT. He also standardized productivity metrics for the Unit, enabling the gaining command to have ready-access to productivity data for each member serving at NAVCENT.

CDR Elizabeth Dykstra, an Entomologist and HCA, conducted a full site review of NSA Bahrain and provided recommendations to Preventive Medicine on which locations to conduct mosquito surveillance. She was also instrumental in the development of a "Quick Guide to Venomous Animals" found in Bahrain and other parts of the Persian Gulf.

LCDR Rebecca Lusk, a clinical psychologist, performed mental health follow up visits, security background investigations, and command directed evaluations from Bahrain. She also arranged air evacuation for mental health patients to Landstuhl Regional Medical Center and coordinated their follow on care with accepting providers in CONUS.

Other MSC officers assigned to the NR NAVCENT include CAPT David Kaczorowski (Chief of Staff); CAPT Scott Olivolo (Director for Administration); LCDR Brian Potoski (Pharmacist); LT Jason Garnett (HCA/POMI); LT Sachi Morillo (HCA/Patient Admin); and LT Kristin Stites (HCA).

Reserve MSC officers at NR NAVCENT are truly involved in every facet of the Unit to include patient care, preventive medicine, exercise planning and execution, and administration. Our unique role in the NAVCENT area of responsibility helps keep the warfighter ready at all times!



From the Detailers

Elimination of the Requirement to Display Officer Photo during Selection Boards

*Following a review, the Navy decided that officer photos will no longer be displayed during promotion selection or administrative boards.

*While it will still remain a requirement for officers to have a photograph as part of their record, we believe that by removing officers' photographs from selection boards will allow board members to concentrate more fully on an individual's overall performance record.

*Officer's Fitness Reports (FITREP) and Performance Summary Reports (PSR) contain an individual's Physical Fitness Assessment information; officer photographs are simply redundant.

*Each year, there are approximately 1,800 officer photographs mailed into promotion boards as official correspondence. We believe that eliminating the photograph requirement will lessen an administrative burden.

Q&A

Why was the decision made?

In reviewing the Navy's board process, it was determined that the officer full-length photographs present redundant information to board members and do not provide significant value to the selection board process. While it will still remain a requirement to submit an officer photograph, we believe that by removing the officers' photographs from selection boards it will allow board members to concentrate more fully on the individual's overall performance record.

Who does it impact?

The change affects all officers who are eligible for statutory or administrative boards.

When will it begin?

The change became effective with the release of the NAVADMIN. The first statutory board affected by this policy will be the FY 18 Active-Duty O-8 selection board. All FY 17 administrative/Spot promotion boards and all FY 18 statutory boards and beyond will no longer display full-length photographs.

How many photos are submitted each year?

Annually, the Navy receives approximately 10,000 officer full-length photographs. Last year the Navy received 1,800 photographs included in letters to the board. We believe that eliminating the photograph requirement will lessen an administrative burden that does not provide significant value.

Will the Navy eliminate the requirement for the full-length photo in an officer's service record?

No. The officer full-length photographs remain a requirement in an officer's official military personnel file (OMPF). The photographs can be used for nominative packages in the detailing process.

MSC Detailers

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LCDR Chuck Wilhite (HCS/PAs)
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Specialty Spotlight

Navy Entomology is one of the smallest communities in the Medical Service Corps, but like the arthropods and vector transmitted diseases they specialize in, they can be found just about anywhere from assignments with the Marines, field activities of the Navy and Marine Corps Public Health Center, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), the US Air Force Academy, in Executive Medicine positions, at OCONUS and CONUS research facilities, and engaged in disease control projects around the globe.

Despite the variety of assignments, Navy entomologists share one common focus and that is prevention of deadly and debilitating disease in deployed personnel. As evidence of that commitment, Navy entomologists have had one of the highest operational tempos in the Medical Service Corps. During the last decade, the community of 37 scientists was deployed for a cumulative total of over 45 years in support of Army, Navy, and Marine units on contingency missions including Operation Enduring Freedom, Operation Iraqi Freedom and humanitarian/disaster relief missions like Operation Unified Response-Haiti and Operation Tomadachi.

The commitment to deployed disease-prevention carries over to readiness and training in which the Navy Environmental Preventive Medicine Units in Norfolk, VA, San Diego, CA, Pearl Harbor, HI, and Rota, Spain and the Navy Entomology Center of Excellence (NECE) in Jacksonville, FL, provide unique, world class education to the next generation of military and civilian disease control specialists through a variety of courses on vector surveillance, identification and control as well as the discovery and development of cutting edge technologies including new pesticides and pesticide delivery equipment.

The tactics and techniques developed by DoD entomologists to combat vector-borne disease are tested at domestic sites like NECE and overseas labs in Singapore, Egypt

and Peru and are utilized to support not only combat troops but are transferred to partner nations during annual humanitarian assistance missions like Operation Pacific Partnership, Operation Continuing Promise and Operation Onward Liberty, Liberia. Disease prevention and control depends on establishing comprehensive programs, often times in areas where none currently exist. Navy entomologists are world-class experts in this element of Global Health Engagement so in collaboration with the World and Pan-American Health organizations, CDC, and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), they help build partner nation capacity by providing sustainable training in vector-borne disease control to international public health professionals and currently serve as the vector control consultants for Rwanda, Nigeria, Uganda, Ghana and Liberia as part of the President's Malaria Initiative (a program that has saved countless lives) demonstrating that while a small part of the Navy Medicine team, Navy entomology has a global impact and helps keep the Navy and Marine Corps family ready, healthy and on the job.

Billet types:

- USMC: 6 billets with 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Med Battalion
- EPMU: 10 billets with 2,5,6,7
- Navy Entomology Center of Excellence: 10 billets
- Navy and Marine Corps Public Health Center
- Naval Medical Research Center
- NAMRU-Singapore, 3 (Cairo), 6 (Lima Peru)
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
- United States Department of Agriculture
- Armed Forces Pest Management Board
- Uniformed University of the Health Sciences
- US Air Force Academy-Associate Professor

Continued to next page...

Entomology

Subspecialty Code = 1850

Billets = 33, 36 as of FY17

End Strength = 37

Reserve Billets = 6



Specialty Spotlight



Jacksonville, FL - LCDR John Hirst, Entomologist, poses for a photo with the staff of the U.S. Naval Malaria and Mosquito Control Unit 1 in Jacksonville, FL, which would eventually become the Navy Entomology Center of Excellence. LCDR Hirst was also the first OIC of the unit.



Jacksonville, FL—Navy entomologist, ENS B.W. Rastall, tests vector control equipment circa 1950.



Kandahar, Afghanistan - Navy Entomologists, LT Ryan Larson (far left), LT Tony Hughes (4th from left), and LT (now LCDR) Jim Dunford (far right) attend a joint preventive medicine meeting in Kandahar deployed in support of Navy, Marine and Army units. (Photo by Lt. Ryan Larson)



Island of Yap - LT James Harwood provides training on indoor residual insecticidal spraying to personnel from the Yap ministry of health.



US Navy
Entomology



Specialty Spotlight



San Juan, Panama - LCDR Jim Dunford assists local Ministry of Health personnel with dengue and chikungunya vector surveillance as part of Operation Continuing Promise 2015.



San Juan, PR - LT Michael Kavanaugh places Zika vector surveillance traps as part of a CDC insecticide resistance research project.



Colombia - LCDR Craig Stoops from NAMRU-6 conducts malaria vector research in the Amazon rainforest.



Kiribati - LT Elizabeth Gerardo conducts mosquito surveillance targeting vectors of Zika and Chikungunya virus with Ministry of Health personnel in Kiribati as part of Operation Pacific Partnership 2015.



US Navy
Entomology



Specialty Spotlight



Liberia - LT Joe DiClaro works as part of the President's Malaria Initiative in Liberia.



Oceanside, CA - LT Ryan Larson provides mosquito identification training to HM3 Valdez at Camp Pendleton.



Fiji - LT Matt Montgomery provides GIS training to Fijian Vector Control Teams as part of an ongoing NEPMU-6 and NECE partner nation capacity building project.



Ghana - CDR Pete Obenauer assists in determining malaria vector densities as part of the President's Malaria Initiative.



US Navy
Entomology



MSCs in Focus



Kissimmee, FL - Research Psychologists participate in the 2016 Military Health System Research Symposium (MHSRS) on 15-18 August 2016. Pictured (L to R): CDR John Melton, LT Erica Harris, CDR Katie Shobe, LT Chris Rodeheffer, CDR David McKay, LT Jay Haran, LCDR Jake Norris, LT Adam Biggs. LT Biggs gave an oral presentation, and LT Rodeheffer, LT Haran, and LCDR Norris presented posters.



Newport, RI - LCDR Jeremy Bien and LT Lisa Brown, both healthcare administrators, attend a recent ODS graduation.



Portsmouth, VA - Radiation Health Officers pose for photo during ENS Richard Reevey Jr.'s commissioning ceremony. ENS Reevey is a former ET1 and was commissioned as a Radiation Health Officer via the In-service Procurement Program. Pictured (L-R): ENS Richard Reevey, ENS Ronnie Bolden, and ENS Marques Wilks

Scientist from Naval Submarine Medical Research Lab Awarded for Outstanding Research

From Naval Medical Research Center

KISSIMMEE, Florida (NNS) -- This year's annual Military Health System Research Symposium award for outstanding individual research accomplishment was presented to a Navy lieutenant.

Lt. Francis Haran, a research psychologist at the Naval Submarine Medical Research Laboratory (NSMRL), Groton, Connecticut, was awarded the 2016 Military Health System Research Symposium (MHSRS) Individual Award for Outstanding Research Accomplishment in the research category of traumatic brain injury and neurotrauma, Aug. 16.

"I was very surprised and honored to receive this award," said Haran. "In military research, you get to see your work have an impact on the warfighter and that, more than anything else, is very rewarding."

The award, which is given annually during MHSRS, was based on Haran's research accomplishments during the past year that directly impacted the clinical evaluation, diagnosis, and tracking of traumatic brain injury in service members; specifically, his research on assessing service members for head trauma.

Haran conducted a series of different studies focused on examining whether the Automated Neuropsychological Assessment Metrics (ANAM4) Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) Battery or normative data, an average score from a reference population for establishing a baseline measure, would be better for testing service members for cognitive deficits associated with TBI.

Haran's research found that neither assessment is better than the other, however normative data does have more advantages.

"During deployment, you don't have access to pre-deployment assessments," said Haran. "Additionally, normative data is more cost-effective as service members don't have to take time out of their pre-deployment work-ups to do the pre-assessment for the ANAM4."

Based on Haran's research, the Defense Health Board suggested the Department of Defense conduct prospective research on the use of neurocognitive assessment tools for managing mild traumatic brain injury and return-to-duty decision-making.

Currently, Haran is working on a psychological health model for submariners to evaluate how occupational stress affects their psychological health and neurological performance. Additional studies led by Haran at NSMRL have contributed to research success in decompression sickness, oxygen toxicity, and diving epidemiology.

"I worked at NASA doing my Ph.D. work where I met an astronaut who was a former Navy pilot," said Haran. "He asked me 'what are you going to do with your life?' He later sent information to me on Navy scientist programs. We were in the middle of the wars, and I wanted to give back."

Haran is a native of West Hartford, Connecticut, and has been in the Navy for seven years.

Navy Medicine's research and development laboratories engage in a broad spectrum of activity from basic laboratory science to field studies at sites in remote areas of the world, and in operational environments. Research topics include infectious diseases; biological warfare detection and defense; combat casualty care; environment health concerns; bone marrow research and registry; aerospace and undersea medicine; medical modeling, simulation and operational mission support; and epidemiology and behavioral sciences. The capabilities and global reach reflect the broad mission of Navy medicine's research and development enterprise.



For more information, visit www.navy.mil, www.facebook.com/usnavy, or www.twitter.com/usnavy.

For more news from Naval Medical Research Center, visit www.navy.mil/local/nmrc/.

Kissimmee, FL - RDML Colin Chinn, Director of the Research, Development & Acquisition Directorate of the Defense Health Agency congratulates LT Haran for receiving the 2016 MHSRS Individual Award for Outstanding Research Accomplishment in the research category of traumatic brain injury and neurotrauma.

MSCs in Focus



Oceanside, CA - Naval Hospital Camp Pendleton Nutrition Clinic Staff create an innovative visual aid for monitoring patient fluid requirements for four inpatient wards. Pictured (L-R): Ms. Monica Ward, Diet Technician; LT Cassie Sipe, Dietitian; Ms. Stephanie Glassen, Dietitian; Ms. Chris Noblit, Dietitian.



San Antonio, TX - LT Kamalan Selvarajah, Healthcare Administrator and Medical Recruiter for Navy Recruiting District San Antonio (NRD-SA), provides a brief during the gathering of the local chapter of Association of Operating Room Nurses (AORN) on Sept. 12. LT Selvarajah arranged the event to heighten awareness of Navy Medicine opportunities for O.R. nurses.



Washington, DC - LT Stephanie Perez (left) and LT Angela Sadosky (right) attend the 39th annual meeting of the American Society of Hand Therapists in Washington DC. Both are occupational therapists working in outpatient settings providing hand therapy services. LT Perez is stationed at NH Camp Pendleton and LT Sadosky is stationed NH Bremerton.

National Intelligence University (NIU) in the Spotlight

By Kishla Askins, MSC, USN

Congratulations to CAPT Rusty Stiles, Director of Health Services Integration, Navy Warfare Development Command, on completing the National Intelligence University's Masters of Science in Strategic Intelligence (MSSI) degree.



Why did I choose the National Intelligence University to highlight this month?

Our National Security Strategy and evolving national security threats demand the latest intelligence to adequately prepare and adapt for a "multi-domain, multi-functional, and trans-regional conflict that may employ both state and non-state actors." It is critical to understand all of the resources available to best prepare for future threats. NIU provides a unique level of exposure to national security issues, from an intelligence perspective, unlike other graduate education opportunity.

What is it?

The National Intelligence University is the Intelligence Community's sole accredited, federal degree-granting institution. The main campus is located in Washington, D.C. and it also has academic centers located around the world. The NIU is a unique and technologically advanced university that focuses on the profession of intelligence and is the only institution of higher education in the nation that allows its students to study and complete research in the Top Secret/Sensitive Compartmentalized Information (TS/SCI) arena. The university enhances the desired analytical skills and competencies of intelligence analysis to include critical thinking, communications, engagement and leadership.

What degrees are offered through NIU?

Part-time, Monthly Executive, or full time Master of Science in Strategic Intelligence Degree, Master of Science and Technology Intelligence Degree, and Graduate Certificates in Intelligence Studies. <http://ni-u.edu/wp/frequently-asked-questions/>

Are there any out of pocket expenses for tuition or books?

There are no associated tuition or book costs; however, if a member decides to enroll in one of the part-time programs, cost of travel would remain a personal expense.



Washington, DC - Taylor Stiles with CAPT Rusty Stiles during his graduation .

CAPT Rusty Stiles, Director, Health Services Integration, Navy Warfare Development Command, recently graduated this past July 2016. As a recent graduate of the program, he graciously agreed to provide his perspective on the program.

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National Intelligence University (NIU) in the Spotlight

By Kishla Askins, MSC, USN



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How has this program contributed to your professional development and when do you believe this program would best placed in the career road map?

From a professional development standpoint, the program prepares students to work as an analyst, strategic thinker and leader in the intelligence community (IC). Many of these same skills are transferable within the Department of Defense (DOD) writ large. During my time, the majority of students were either active duty officer's working in their respective service's intelligence division or civilian federal service (CIA, DIA, NSA, NGA and FBI) career track intelligence professionals. Completion of the program prepares you to work in that environment from both an analytical and production standpoint. Perhaps the ideal time for Navy Medical Department Officers to enroll in the Master's program would be earlier in their careers at the LCDR or CDR level.

How does this benefit Navy Medicine and the warfighter?

Globally, NIU is on par with or exceeds the war college rigor. Staff corps officers that can demonstrate professional competency, enhance Navy Medicine's credibility with the line community. This can help when communicating our value to the warfighter. Upon completion of the NIU program, officers are infused with those skill sets and prepared to articulate current and future relevancy. In retrospect, the program prepares students to interface and augment a Combatant Commander, Fleet or Service component's Health Service Support (HSS) or J2/N2 staff and become a significant contributor to the mission. HSS (medical intelligence) brings a unique perspective when combined with IC skill sets and help save lives in combat.

Did this help network across Services and federal agencies? If yes, which ones and how will this assist you in the performance of your duties?

NIU is a joint service program with students matriculating from each of the Services and the 16 different IC agencies. Class interaction is robust in a non-attributional environment; this ensures that by the end of the program, those relationships are usually forged in steel. It is a tremendous advantage to have this network that can be called upon for advice in efforts to gain assistance and help. Considering the future environment, any formal training that better prepares us to function across warfare domains, functional groups, agencies, and/or regions will improve our ability to provide the COCOMs with decision advantage.

What fields of study taught you the most?

Studies in what are termed "The Compound Eye" intelligence collection; foreign denial and deception; and critical infrastructure and support were extremely beneficial. These studies helped reinforce the discipline of analytical rigor and overcoming known and unknown biases. These advanced skills provide an active awareness of how messaging may be packaged by foreign governments for the sole purpose of influencing public opinion, pushing political agendas and ultimately prioritizing their national interests.

What did you do your thesis on?

My thesis was entitled "*The current state of NORTHCOM and its maritime component NAVNORTH's response to the humanitarian disaster of a highly contagious influenza pandemic and the global relief effort.*" The focus is on the relationship of the Combatant Command, U.S. Northern Command, to its maritime component, U.S. Naval Forces Northern Command and other key government agencies are examined to answer the research question "*What key medical countermeasures (MCM's) and delivery will be required for U.S. Northern Command (NORTHCOM) and its maritime component U.S. Naval Forces Northern Command (NAVNORTH) to successfully respond to the humanitarian disaster of a HCI pandemic and the global relief effort?*"

National Physician Assistant (PA) Week October 6-12

By CDR Ed Owens, PA Specialty Leader



National Physician Assistants (PA) Day was first celebrated October 6, 1987, in honor of the 20th anniversary of the first graduating class of Physician Assistants.

On October 6, 2010, President Barack Obama proclaimed October 6 – 12, as National Physician Assistant Week. This year the Physician Assistant profession will celebrate its 50th year! I want to recognize the active duty, Reserve, civil service and contractor PAs serving the United States Navy and our beneficiaries. Serving our country with honor, courage and commitment characterizes the unique dedication Navy PAs offer our shipmates at home and abroad, often in harm's way.

Reflecting on the 50 years since our profession's inauguration, it is



amazing to see how much the PA profession has grown. The vision of Duke University Medical Center's Dr. Eugene Stead, whose progressive idea to solve a growing shortage of primary care providers, provided the impetus launching the profession.

The first PA class, consisting of three handpicked U.S. Navy hospital corpsmen, was selected by Committee Chair Dr. Andrew Wallace. His experience working with hospital corpsmen at Naval Hospital Bethesda set the stage for the profession's inaugural



training program. Graduating from Duke University on October 6, 1967, the three corpsmen laid the foundation of what is now a profession of more than 100,000 men and women. The PA profession has since grown to more than 225 accredited PA programs nationwide, graduating approximately 5,000 PAs annually.

The first Navy Physician Assistant class graduated in August, 1974, and graduates were subsequently commissioned as warrant officers. In 1992, our profession transitioned to a regular commission, joining the Medical Service Corps ranks of 31 subspecialties.



Today more than 350 active duty and Reserve PAs muster in our ranks.

Navy Physician Assistants are making an indelible mark on Navy Medicine. Members of our community serve in a variety of environments around the world on land, at sea and with the U.S. Marine Corps. Specialty training opportunities include general and orthopedic surgery, aviation and emergency medicine. Navy PAs are serving in leadership roles to include officers in charge, directorships and various other off-ramp billets.

Although our history spans only half a century, we are a storied profession. I want to say thank you to all of the men and women in uniform serving as PAs in our Navy. This appreciation extends to the hundreds of civil service and civilian contractor PAs serving the Department of Defense and its beneficiaries. Thank you for your compassion, sacrifice and dedication to the profession. Happy 50th birthday, shipmates!

Continued to next page...



National Physician Assistant Week October 6-12

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Navy's First Aviation PA Receives Wings

By HM2 Matthew Clutter, Navy Medicine Operational Training Center Public Affairs



In a historic winging, Lt. William Grisham has become the Navy's first Physician's Assistant to graduate from the Navy Aerospace Medical Institute, an endeavor that began some five years ago with a simple email.

The culmination of Grisham's efforts gives the Navy another avenue from which to pull specialists in the field of aviation medicine and creates a new program to train health care providers to work alongside flight surgeons.

"Lt. Grisham's designation as the first Aeromedical Physician's Assistant is great for the fleet, Navy Medicine and the Medical Service Corps' Physician Assistant community," said Capt. John Wyland, Navy Aerospace Medical Institute Officer in Charge at the time of Grisham's appointment in the program. "Aerospace Medicine Physician's Assistants will serve as invaluable flight surgeon extenders in areas of direct care, preventive medicine, safety and readiness. They will fill critical operational billets, and the experience they receive should enhance their ability to serve in future leadership positions."

It has been quite the road for Grisham to get to this point. In 2011, while working as a Family Medicine PA at Naval Branch Health Clinic Atsugi, Japan, he had already received orders to be a Family Medicine PA at Naval Air Station Whiting Field, Fla.,

when a hot fill billet request popped into his email inbox one day.

"I immediately responded to the email and contacted my specialty leader to let him know I wanted that billet," Grisham said.

That billet was in Aerospace Medicine on board the Carrier Air Wing FIVE (CVW5), and Grisham seized the opportunity. So instead of moving duty stations halfway around the world, he instead PCSed across the hall, as CVW5 is located in Astugi, as well.

The opportunity paid dividends for Grisham's career, enabling him to work with Flight Surgeons to take care of Air Wing members' primary and urgent care needs. While he was somewhat limited in his scope of care, he did receive a lot of hands-on training and was able spend a great deal of time visiting squadron spaces to build camaraderie and trust with the aviators and critical support staff, an important aspect of aviation medicine.

Most importantly, perhaps, was that his time aboard CVW5 showed that PAs could successfully operate as extensions of Flight Surgeons within the Aviation Medicine community. And that set the stage for his historic training with NAMI.

After his three years aboard CVW5, Grisham received orders to NAMI where he would receive formal training in Aerospace Medicine and help develop the Aerospace Medicine PA training program.

He admits that there was some pressure in being the first PA to complete the program.

"I definitely had people tell me, 'Better not screw this up' or something like that," Grisham joked. "However, I can honestly tell you that the only pressure I feel is the pressure I put on myself to do well in and suc-



cessfully complete this training. Just like many of the student naval aviators and flight surgeons I'm training with, I want to do well for myself and to prove I belong here just like everyone else."

The training that Grisham – and future Physician's Assistants – received was identical to what Flight Surgeons receive, though the responsibilities differ some. The program is six months long and includes academics and flight training. The flight training portion consists of aviation pre-flight indoctrination and an abbreviated flight training syllabus with a Training Air Wing at NAS Pensacola or NAS Whiting Field. The academic portion is held at NAMI and includes aerospace medicine topics in primary care, acute care, occupational health, preventative medicine and naval aviation safety. Upon completion of the training, graduates are assigned to a Carrier Air Wing Medicine Department where their duties are similar to a Flight Surgeon.

Continued to next page...

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Navy's First Aviation PA Receives Wings

By HM2 Matthew Clutter, Navy Medicine Operational Training Center Public Affairs

Continued from previous page...

Grisham, the son of Bruce, a retired men's clothing store owner, and Elaine, a teacher and homemaker, has long had a love for aviation medicine. While he has several family members with military backgrounds, it was his younger brother John who really piqued his interest in aviation medicine. John Grisham is a naval flight officer in the EA6-B Prowler community, an occupation that always intrigued the older Grisham.

He first seriously considered the Navy a career in high school in Savannah, Tenn., during an American Legion Boy's State program when a guest naval officer spoke to the group. As soon as he was accepted to the University of South Alabama Physician's Assistant program, Grisham sought out a Navy recruiter and applied for the Health Professions Scholarship.

"Once I was selected for the program and received my commission, I never looked back," Grisham said. "I knew that I wanted to be a PA in the Navy and that I loved Naval aviation. Now I'm just proud to be part of the Naval Aviation community and serve in this capacity."

It was a journey that Grisham didn't take alone.

"There have so many great individuals involved in this process," Grisham said. "However, I do owe a great deal of gratitude to Commander Naval Air Forces (CNAF) and Capt. Kris Belland, Commander Pacific Fleet Surgeon, for helping make this opportunity possible and for their strong support every step of the way. I would also like to thank my leadership at CVW5 during my tour there who provided the opportunity to be part of their Aviation Medicine Department. Lastly, I would like to thank the Navy

Medicine Operational Training Center and NAMI leadership for the opportunity to attend this training program. Of course, I can't fail to mention the wonderful support of my wife, Sarah, throughout this endeavor, as well."



PENSACOLA, FL - LT William Grisham, the Navy's first aviation physician assistant, receives his wings from his wife, Sarah Grisham, during a graduation ceremony from the Navy Aerospace Medicine Institute (NAMI). (U.S. Navy photo by Hospital Corpsman 2nd Class Matthew Clutter)

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Financial Management
Environmental Health
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Manpower/Personnel
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Industrial Hygiene
Entomology
Audiology
Dietetics
Optometry
Social Work
Research Psychology
Aerospace Physiology
Health Care Administration
Aerospace Experimental Psychology

MSCs Around the Globe



CP Oscar, Camp Walker, Daegu, Republic of Korea - Army, Navy, Air Force, and Republic of Korea (ROK) Army personnel participate in the Ulchi Freedom Guardian 2016 Joint Medical Operations. Navy MSCs included (front row) LT (now LCDR) Heather Hendrix-Holmes, Environmental Health Officer - US Forces Korea; LT Carolynn Hine, Healthcare Administrator - Naval Hospital Twentynine Palms; LT Hunter Coates, Healthcare Administrator - Naval Medical Center San Diego; and, (back row) LT Raza Beg, Healthcare Administrator, USS Essex.



Philadelphia, PA - LT Mark Green, Healthcare Administrator Transition Officer; LCDR Shanda Avent, Health Facility Planning and Project Officer; and, LT Gene Sterling, Environmental Health Officer and Interim Director of Public Health; place the final touches on the newly renovated Naval Branch Health Clinic Philadelphia prior to the ribbon cutting on 17 Aug 2016.

MSCs Around the Globe



Kingdom of Thailand - LCDR Rudy Medina, POMI, briefs senior OSD policy representative for PACOM. AM-HEX 2016 for the first time operationalized the ASEAN Center for MilMed (ACMM). ACMM serves as a key agency for coordinating sending states' MilMed capabilities to enable combined response efforts for regional HA/DR events and to promote steady state regional security cooperation and stability. The exercise scenario involved an underwater earthquake in the Gulf of Thailand, which caused a major tsunami that overwhelmed the capabilities of government of Thailand leading to ACMM activation, consisting of the 10-member ASEAN plus 18 countries for large scale MilMed response and recovery efforts.



Kingdom of Thailand - MSC POMIs, LCDR Rudy Medina, MARFORPAC, and CDR Joseph Piansay, OUSD-Policy GHE/MilMed, pose for a photo with participants from the Royal Thai Army MedDept HQs and BrigGen Valmonte, SG, Armed Forces of PH, during the pilot ASEAN MilMed and HA/DR Exercise 2016 in Chon Buri and Bangkok, Kingdom of Thailand.

Occupational Therapist Provides Training in the Republic of Georgia

While Navy Occupational Therapy is a small community, its impact exceeds its numbers. Occupational therapy maximizes medical readiness by holistically treating patients across the lifespan and specializes in improving physical, mental, psycho-social health and well-being. This specialized training was recently tested when LT John L. Balsamo an occupational/certified hand therapist attached with an Army Mobile Training Team (MTT) to train Republic of Georgia occupational therapy technicians in amputee and prosthetic rehabilitation.

LT Balsamo is an instructor in the joint Army Navy occupational therapy assistant program at the Medical Education and Training Command (METC) in San Antonio. In addition to training sailors and soldiers, the program also trains Air Force and international students. This particular MMT to Georgia had the added benefit of following up on the clinical development of four former Georgian graduates from the METC program.

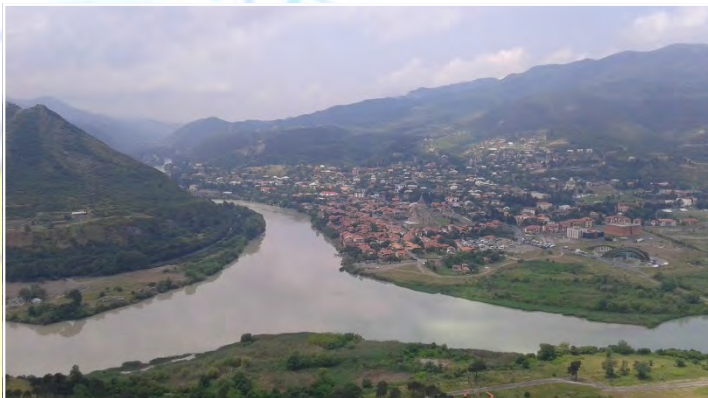
While the month long training was intended to treat Georgian and Ukrainian amputees, it quickly expanded to include a wide range of patient diagnoses and ages. The MMT worked at three separate clinics in the cities of Tbilisi, Gori and Tserovani. A significant amount of time was spent at the Tserovani clinic, as the Georgian Ministry of Defense (MOD) is in the planning stage of expanding that site to build a modern rehabilitation center and living quarters for

wounded warriors and their families. LT Balsamo, and physical therapist, LCDR (Ret) Mark Heniser, used their clinical expertise to partner with the Georgians in their planning discussions, and provided input on equipment and resource needs for the clinics.

While the mission was focused on amputee care, LT Balsamo treated a wide variety of diagnoses and conducted multiple in-services on upper limb anatomy, orthopedic assessments, and neurodevelopmental treatment techniques. The occupational therapy staff also evaluated pediatric patients with cerebral palsy, patients with mild and severe traumatic brain injuries and wounded warriors suffering from PTSD. The staff conducted three community outings that challenged the amputee patients to traverse uneven terrain in order to go fishing, required wheelchair bound patients to problem solve issues related to non-handicap accessible bathrooms and tested brain injured patients with high level community re-integration excursions. Prior to each outing, the staff conducted Operational Risk Management assessments when conducting pre-site visits in order to anticipate issues and ensure patient safety.

During the four week training significant progress was made in clinical skills and clinic administration. LT Balsamo is in the process a developing a distant e-mentoring program in order to continue mentoring the Georgian technicians

and share best practices techniques. This is the third MMT to Georgia in many years, and Navy occupational therapy hopes to provide continued assistance.



Scenic view of the Georgian countryside.



Republic of Georgia - Gori Clinic staff pose for a picture with LT John Balsamo, Occupational Therapist, and LCDR (Ret) Mark Heniser, Physical Therapist.



MSCs Around the Globe



Chon Buri, Kingdom of Thailand (KoT) - CDR Joey Piansay, POMI (middle), participates in the ASEAN MilMED HA/DR Exercise (AM-Hex 2016) with members of AM-HEX 16 Observer-Assessment Team. The team observed both the Command Post Exercise (CPX) and Field Training Exercise (FTX) to refine ASEAN and Plus-18 countries for MILMED interoperability during HA/DR efforts. The ASEAN HA/DR exercise stood up an MNCC to plan, coordinate, integrate and deploy MilMed capabilities to the fictional country of Tharulja that suffered from devastation of a Tsunami caused by an undersea earthquake.

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Chon Buri, Kingdom of Thailand (KoT) - CDR Joey Piansay (left), POMI; Mike Sashin (middle), POMI/CAPT-ret; and India HSS LNO, pose for a photo at the Multinational Coordination Center (MNCC) for AM-HEX 16. Mr. Sashin was a SME/advisor in support of the Exercise Control Group (ECG) for AM-HEX 2016. HSS Planning, coordination and execution for a bilateral and multinational-exercise and especially in real-world contingencies are one of the many skill sets that MSCs develop when assigned to POMI billets. This skill set remains relevant and lucrative beyond active duty service. If interested in becoming a POMI, contact your Detailer on downstream assignments that offer a path to earning a POMI subspecialty.



MSCs Around the Globe



Chon Buri, Kingdom of Thailand - MSC Officers participate in the ASEAN MilMed HA/DR Exercise(AM-HEX 2016). Pictured: LT Brian Reynolds (center), POMI from I MEF MARFORPAC, represented USPACOM as lead planner for the Plans Cell, Multinational Coordination Center (MNCC). Based on requests for MilMed assistance received by the MNCC, here LT Reynolds is depicted standing up an OPT to train/advise/assist in planning combined HSS operations to support displaced local populations based on the Thailand Tsunami HA/DR exercise.



Ayutthaya, Kingdom of Thailand (KoT) - Delegations from various countries participate in the ASEAN Center for MilMed (ACMM). Pictured: CDR Joey Piansay (far right), POMI, with LNO delegation from Myanmar, Vietnam, Australia and Thailand. Other countries that participated in the initial LNO Conference/Workshop were PRC/China, Malaysia, Philippines, Federation of Russia, Singapore, and Indonesia. During AM-HEX 2016, the ACMM established their operations center in Bangkok, KoT to support the CPX and tested its SOP for rapid reception, staging, onward movement and integration (RSOI) and consequent deployment of requested MILMED capabilities.

MSCs Around the Globe



USNS MERCY (T-AH-19) - The MSC officers aboard the USNS MERCY take a moment for a photo opportunity. Pictured Front Row (L-R): LT Richard Tan, Healthcare Administrator; LCDR Romelia Puel, Pharmacist; LT Alicia Sammons, Environmental Health Officer; LT Amanda Chandler, Healthcare Administrator; LTJG Shelby Naughton, Dietitian; LT Kelly Nobles, Biochemist; LCDR Megan Clausen, Optometrist; LT Jennifer Knapp, Entomologist. Second Row (L-R): LCDR Allen Ramos, Industrial Hygienist; LT Tamara Belin, Healthcare Administrator; LTJG Anthony Ochiltree, Healthcare Administrator; LCDR Tawanna Birdsong Blanche, Healthcare Administrator; LT Myra Wearing, Healthcare Administrator; LTJG Naomi Harless, Dietitian; LT Ashley Grip, Healthcare Administrator; LT Sebastian Garcia, Pharmacist; LCDR Wendy Cacioppo, Optometrist. Third Row (L-R) LCDR David Robison, Healthcare Administrator; LCDR Dean Kang, Pharmacist; CDR Walter Bombka, Healthcare Administrator; LTJG Theo Cunningham, Medical Technologist; CDR Bruce Thompson, Pharmacist; LCDR Robert Creamer, Physician Assistant; LCDR Justin Campbell, Operations Analysis; LCDR Marc Haines, Healthcare Administrator; LT Mark DeBano, Optometrist; and, LT Lening Mora, Environmental Health Officer.



Tokyo, Japan—LT Kevinn Harris, Medical Plans and Intel Officer of the 5th Marine Expeditionary Brigade in Bahrain, serves as the re-enlisting officer for his brother, LS2 (AW) Anthony Harris, Logistics Specialist from HSC-12 Atsugi, Japan, while flying over Tokyo in HH-60.

38th SURGEON GENERAL OF THE NAVY VISITS USNS MERCY

By LCDR Tawanna Birdsong Blanche



KUANTAN, Malaysia – Vice Admiral C. Forrest Faison III, Surgeon General, Chief Bureau Medicine and Surgery visited USNS MERCY on the 69th birthday of the Medical Service Corps, 4 August 2016. Navy Medicine was escorted throughout the ship to interact with the staff and crew in their spaces, from the engine room to the operating room.

VADM Faison was very excited to come aboard MERCY, to speak to everyone and hear the good stories of Navy Medicine, MERCY and Pacific Partnership 2016. VADM Faison left an impression on many during all hands call held on the mess decks with presentations of USNS MERCY Service members of the Month, Senior Sailor of the Quarter, Junior Sailor of the Quarter, and Blue Jacket of the Quarter, 3rd Quarter, fiscal year 2016.

Faison's recurring theme in support of Pacific Partnership was "you are making a difference." That the actions of the service members onboard USNS MERCY are critical to the nation's national security, prosperity and vitality. The ability to save lives makes a difference for strategic partnerships in the area. The nation is focusing on the pacific, with a growing population in China. Pacific Partnerships are about building friendships and alliances. The pacific has more natural disasters than anywhere in the world with tsunamis, typhoons, volcanoes and earth quakes. Many lives are lost. Collaboratively, MERCY works alongside Partner Nations, Host Nations and Non-Governmental Organizations as equals, to learn from one another; prepare, train and work together. In the event of a natural disaster, we can help save lives. Our impact is long-lasting and will save future lives, which is important for our country; our country is dependent upon peace, prosperity and stability.

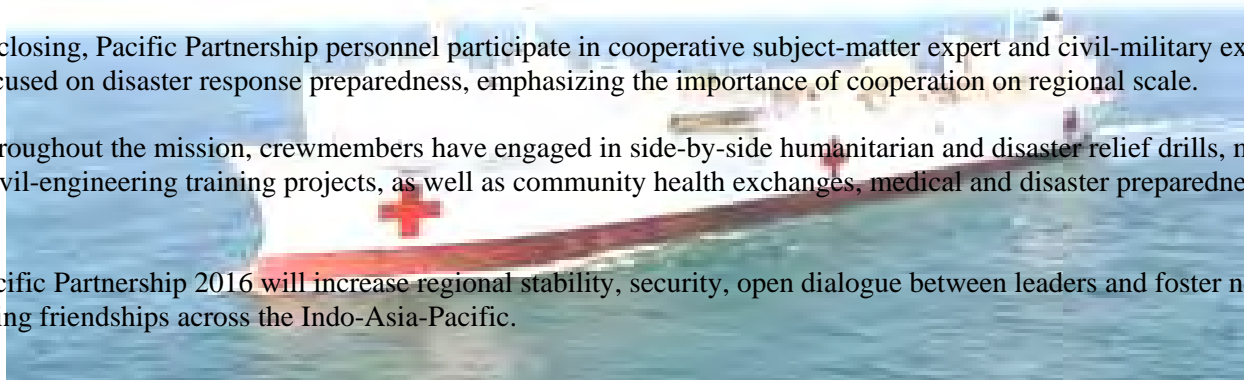
Following all hands, the Surgeon General met with the Board of Directors followed by lunch on the mess decks with the Sailors. VADM Faison provided inspiring words during a Board of Directors meeting encouraging the officers of the wardroom follow their true north while emphasizing the importance of Pacific Partnerships and the value of sacrifices the Sailors make.

Despite austere environments Navy Medicine's goal is to partner with other nations. Evidenced by that posture, VADM Faison greeted the Malaysian Minister of Defense as he arrived via helo for a tour of USNS MERCY. While onboard USS MERCY, the Surgeon General promoted two Navy Residents and had the opportunity to talk with several MERCY Sailors.

In closing, Pacific Partnership personnel participate in cooperative subject-matter expert and civil-military exchanges, focused on disaster response preparedness, emphasizing the importance of cooperation on regional scale.

Throughout the mission, crewmembers have engaged in side-by-side humanitarian and disaster relief drills, medical, and civil-engineering training projects, as well as community health exchanges, medical and disaster preparedness symposia.

Pacific Partnership 2016 will increase regional stability, security, open dialogue between leaders and foster new and enduring friendships across the Indo-Asia-Pacific.



MSCs Around the Globe



USNS MERCY (T-AH-19) – MSCs aboard the MERCY take a photo with VADM Faison on the 69th MSC birthday. Front Row (L-R) LCDR David Robison, Healthcare Administrator; LCDR Tawanna Birdsong Blanche, Healthcare Administrator; LT Amanda Chandler, Healthcare Administrator; LCDR Romelia Puel, Pharmacist; LTJG Shelby Naughton, Dietitian; LT Emiliano Rabor, Healthcare Administrator; LT Michael Bowe-Rahming, Environmental Health Officer; LT Sebastian Garcia, Pharmacist. Second Row (L-R): LT Richard Tan, Healthcare Administrator; LCDR Dean Kang, Pharmacist; LCDR Shevonne Wells, Podiatrist; LCDR Wendy Cacioppo, Optometrist; VADM Forrest Faison, LT Myra Wearing, Healthcare Administrator; LCDR Megan Clausen, Optometrist; LTJG Theo Cunningham, Medical Technologist. Third Row (L-R) Mark Debano, Optometrist; LCDR Alan Chronister, Optometrist; and LCDR Robert Creamer, Physician Assistant.



Honolulu, HI - LT Neil Rampy, Clinical Social Worker from US Naval Hospital Guam, works with LTCOL Tanongson Tienthavorn of the Royal Thai Army on a disaster response simulation during the 2016 Health Emergencies in Large Populations (HELP) course in Honolulu, Hawaii.



Iwakuni, Japan - CDR Jessica D. Beard, BHC Iwakuni Officer-in-Charge, prepares to cut a ceremonial ribbon to signify the grand opening of the new EDIS facility which was built in the M.C. Perry Elementary School complex on MCAS Iwakuni, Aug. 24. Pictured (L-R): COL Richard F. Fuerst, Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Iwakuni Commanding Officer; LT Mario A. Bencivenga, Branch Health Clinic (BHC) Iwakuni Educational and Developmental Intervention Services (EDIS) Division Officer; and, CDR Jessica D. Beard. (U.S. Navy photo by LCDR Felix Villanueva/USNH Yokosuka PAO/ Released)

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New Early Developmental Intervention Services Administrative Facility in MCAS Iwakuni

Navy Health Facility Planning and Project Officer, LT Edward Teer, and team deliver improved environment of care to MCAS Iwakuni Japan. A new Early Developmental Intervention Services (EDIS) Administrative Facility opened for business 23AUG2016. This 4,811 Square Foot project was constructed under the Defense Policy Review Initiative (DPRI) Host Nation Project and one of the three DPRI projects that are being managed by Navy Medicine West Detachment Far East in support of the USMC at Iwakuni.

Construction started on March 2015 and the completed facility was turned over to NMW Det Far East on 8AUG 2016 for outfitting and transition. EDIS on MCAS Iwakuni Japan supports the mission readiness of the Marines and Sailors stationed at Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni by providing comprehensive, effective, and timely developmental intervention and clinical services to children of Active Duty members and beneficiaries who have special needs. The comprehensive services provided by EDIS include Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy, Social work, Clinical Psychology, Speech and Language Pathology and Early Childhood Special Education.



Iwakuni, Japan - Top picture (L-R): Mr. Ben Bradshaw, USACE Little Rock IO Project Manager; Ms. Kim Liv, NMW Det FE Project Support Assistant; HM1 Pete Tan, NMW Det FE BMET; and LT Edward Teer, Project Lead Health Facility Planning and Project Officer. Bottom picture - MCAS Iwakuni Japan EDIS Administrative Building

Southern Partnership Station 2016 Doctors Fight Against Zika in Honduras

By Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Torrey W. Lee, Southern Partnership Station 2016 Public Affairs

SAN PEDRO SULA, Honduras (NNS) -- Seven U.S. Navy medical personnel, deployed in support of Southern Partnership Station 2016 (SPS-16) partnered with the Honduran health workers of Operation Blessing to provide preventive medicine education and combat the Zika virus.

Southern Partnership Station 2016 (SPS-16) is a U.S. Southern Command-directed operation planned by Commander, U.S. Naval Forces Southern Command (COMUSNAVSO)/Commander, U.S. Fourth Fleet (C4F) and carried out by deployed adaptive force packages (AFPs) in Honduras, El Salvador and Colombia.

AFPs are specialized military teams from Navy Expeditionary Combat Command (NECC), Navy Environmental and Preventive Medicine Unit 2, Navy Bureau of Medicine subordinate commands, the U.S. Marine Corps, U.S. Army, U.S. Air Force, U.S. Coast Guard and civilian personnel that focus on locally identified needs such as port security, non-commissioned officer professional development, operational risk managements and medical readiness, among others.

This year, the medical AFP deployed to Honduras conducted a subject matter expert exchange (SMEE) with Honduran medical personnel, which centered on the Zika virus and preventative treatments to promote environmental health. AFPs deployed as part of SPS-16 will collaborate with partner nations in Central and South America, working hand-in-hand to build partner capabilities in the fields of law enforcement, junior officer development, medical readiness and construction.

"Our ultimate goal is to build a partnership by improving the health infrastructure here in Honduras," said Lt. Cmdr. Patrick McKenna, SPS-16's medical team leader. "As we went through the planning process our ideas evolved. Our initial focus was on women's health and water issues, but when Zika became a world issue, we shifted our focus."

SPS-16's medical team is equipped with entomologists specializing in mosquitoes, clinical nurses, preventive medical personnel, and a gynecologist.

"When it comes to the Zika [virus] and preventive medicine, it's not a one-stop deal," said Cmdr. Tony Silvetti, the team's gynecologist. "To change the environment, we have to change the mindset. We have to educate the kids, talk to the adults, and work with our medical subject matter experts."

Silvetti came to Honduras with a goal to educate as many people as possible about the various environmental diseases caused by sanitation issues. He didn't intend to only consult patients during the mission, but reach out to the youth population through child-friendly training.

To maximize the team's outreach, the Navy's personnel partnered with the nonprofit organization, Operation Blessing. Honduras National Director Hilda Romero leads Operation Blessing, and her organization provided a bridge between the U.S. service members and the people of Honduras.

"We're in the middle of this crisis, preventing Zika, and when the military asked the locals what they could do to help, we said that there was plenty to do," said Romero.

To achieve the goal of reducing Zika, Operation Blessing has begun implementing biological pesticides to limit mosquito larva development. The organization gives Monte Verde villagers tortoises and tilapia that are trained to eat mosquito larva to place in their standing water for washing clothes. Without these animals, the mosquito breeding rate would exceed 40 percent, increasing the risk for mosquito-borne illnesses.

Romero said she believed the U.S. service members and Hondurans could learn from each other. She explained how the people of Monte Verde live a very different life, where water and medical attention isn't always readily accessible. Many of the practices used in Honduras are not conventional for many Americans.

"This has been just the first few days and I feel like we accomplished a lot," said McKenna. "As long as we strengthen this relationship, that in itself will be a success."

SPS-16 is an annual series of U.S. Navy deployments focused on subject matter expert exchanges with partner nation militaries and security forces in Central and South America and the Caribbean. U.S. military teams work with partner nation forces during naval-focused training exercises, military-to-military engagements and community relations projects in an effort to enhance partnerships with regional maritime activities and improve the operational readiness of participants.

For more information, visit www.navy.mil, www.facebook.com/usnavy, or www.twitter.com/usnavy.

For more news from U.S. Naval Forces Southern Command & U.S. 4th Fleet, visit <http://www.navy.mil/local/cusns/>.

MSCs Around the Globe



Choloma, Honduras— LT Christian Johnroe, Environmental Health Officer assigned to Naval Environmental Preventive Medicine Unit 2 (NEMPU-2), and LT Alistair Bryson, Entomologist assigned to NEMPU-2, teach a class of Monte Verde children about the hazardous effects of mosquitoes and unsanitary conditions during Southern Partnership Station 2016 (SPS-16). SPS-16's medical team partnered with Operation Blessing as they attempt to use biological methods to combat the Zika virus. SPS-16 is an annual series of U.S. Navy deployments focused on subject matter expert exchanges with partner nation militaries and security forces in Central and South America and the Caribbean. U.S. military teams work with partner nation forces during naval-focused training exercises, military-to-military engagements and community relations projects in an effort to enhance partnerships with regional maritime activities and improve the operational readiness.



Choloma, Honduras - LT Alistair Bryson, Entomologist, carries a box of water samples from local wells through Choloma Monte Verde village during Southern Partnership Station 2016 (SPS-16). SPS-16 is an annual series of U.S. Navy deployments focused on subject matter expert exchanges with partner nation militaries and security forces in Central and South America and the Caribbean. U.S. military teams work with partner nation forces during naval-focused training exercises, military-to-military engagements and community relations projects in an effort to enhance partnerships with regional maritime activities and improve the operational readiness of participants. (U.S. Army photo by Private First Class Liem Huynh/released)

U.S. Navy Medical Service Corps

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The Medical Service Corps supports Navy Medicine's readiness and health benefits mission. It is the most diverse Officer Corps in Navy Medicine with 31 specialties organized under three major categories: Healthcare Administrators, Clinical Care Specialties, and Healthcare Scientists. There are over 3,000 active and reserve MSC officers that serve at Military Treatment Facilities, on ships, with the Fleet Marine Force, with Seabee and special warfare units, in research centers and laboratories, in a myriad of staff positions with the Navy and Marine Corps, and with our sister services around the world.

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